



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 – 08-012

District: District 2 - Redding

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTION OF INTERSTATE 5 TO BE NAMED NOMLAKI HIGHWAY

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 will re-name a portion of Interstate 5 (I-5) in Tehama County for the Paskenta Band of the Nomlaki Indians, who were the original native inhabitants of Tehama County. A dedication ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 1 beginning at 1 p.m. on Northbound I-5 near Gyle Road at the newly installed sign.

On July 7th, 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Senate Concurrent Resolution 15, authored by Senator Sam Aanestad, a measure which designates a portion of the Interstate 5 freeway between Gyle Road and Flores Avenue in Tehama County as the Nomlaki Highway. The site was chosen since it is a location which is considered the heart of the historical Nomlaki homeland.

According to Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa, within whose district the Nomlaki Highway is located, "Anyone who knows the history of this valley knows that the Nomlaki played an integral role in the development of this region. I'm proud that the state has finally taken the steps necessary to acknowledge their proud chapter in our story."

The boundaries of the Nomlaki lands were forcibly reduced with the arrival of the Europeans, but they once extended well into the Sacramento River Valley, which included most of present-day Tehama County. The original trails through the Mendocino National Forest and those connecting the valley and the mountains were originally cleared and used by the Nomlaki. Many of these original Nomlaki trails have today evolved into heavily-used highways in Tehama and Glenn Counties.

"We appreciate the California Legislature's acknowledgement of our historical ties to this land," said Everett Freeman, Chairperson of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. "Whenever we meet state leaders we always tell them our story, in this instance, they heard our story and took an act to permanently memorialize it, for that we are very grateful."

Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced), a co-author of the measure, did so after visiting with members of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. He said, "After meeting with the Tribal members at Paskenta, it was apparent to me that their history was one that

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desperately needed to be told. I believe that recognizing this area as their historical homeland is the first step in telling that story."

Of its original 25,000 acres, the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians Tribal government now has regained jurisdiction over approximately 2,300 acres of federal trust land that is located on their reservation in Tehama County.

Caltrans crews have installed new signs naming this portion of the interstate. Signs and installation were paid for by non-state sources.

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PLEASE NOTE: Participants must park on the Gyle Road over crossing and walk to the sign location. All appropriate safety equipment must be worn by those involved in the dedication. Caltrans officials will have a limited number of hard hats and safety vests and glasses available.

An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://caltrans2.info/roadinfo.htm>

